

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-3, 7-12, 16-29 are pending and are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone and email interviews with Angela M. Brunetti on 11/5/2009, 11/7/2009 and 11/8/2009.

. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1:

insert after "vehicle" in line 2:

--, particularly operating in at least one period of intentionally induced understeer –

Insert after 'forward' in limitation 'c':

-- by a predetermined vehicle response threshold --

Claim 12:

Insert after 'therein' in line 2:

--, the vehicle computer model operating with at least one occurrence of intentionally induced understeer –

Claim 21:

Insert after 'therein' in line 2:

--, the vehicle computer model operating with at least one occurrence of intentionally induced understeer –

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: **please see attached amendment to figures 5, 7**. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-3, 7-12, 16-29 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Please see attached document entitled "proposed amendments for allowance" which discusses the patentability of the claims.

6. The claims are directed to operating the vehicle model with **understeer** and is described with reference to **Figure 4**. Understeer is when the front of the vehicle is plowing and does not respond to a change in steering wheel angle. Figure 4, paragraph [0032] of the specification as filed reflects the sections of the claims, as cited above, that relate to the determination of understeering. A repeated comparison is made of the existence of understeer (80, 84) and the determination of a new steering wheel angle (86) is made only in the event the error between the SWA being held and the current SWA is being reduced (90). Therefore, the newly computed steering wheel angle (78)

Art Unit: 2128

will not be applied until the point in time that understeer has been reduced below the predetermined threshold value, see paragraph [0031].

7. The invention is claimed in the context of **intentionally induced** understeering.
8. The combination of claimed features in this context is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.
9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hugh Jones whose telephone number is (571) 272-3781. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 2-10 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamini Shah can be reached on 571-272-2279. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2128

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hugh Jones/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2128